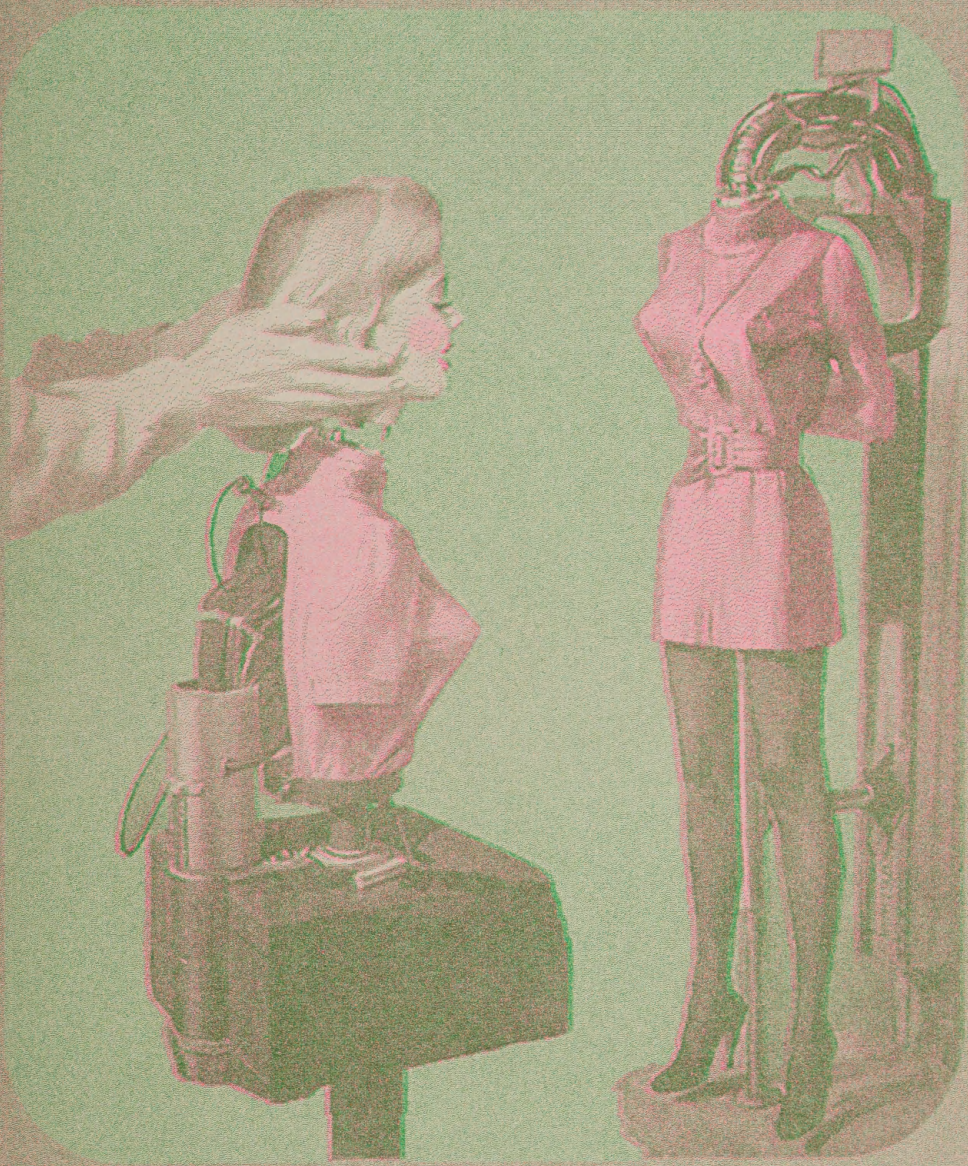
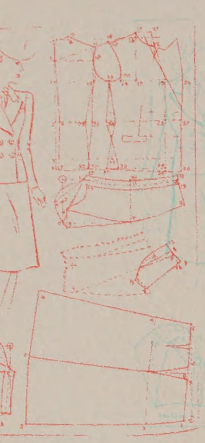


# BODY



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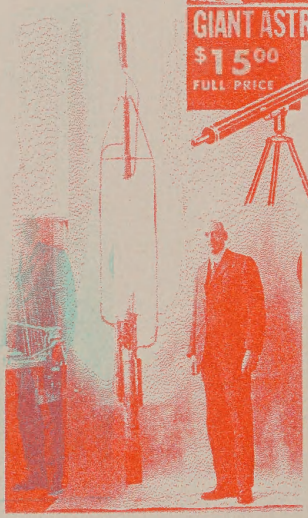
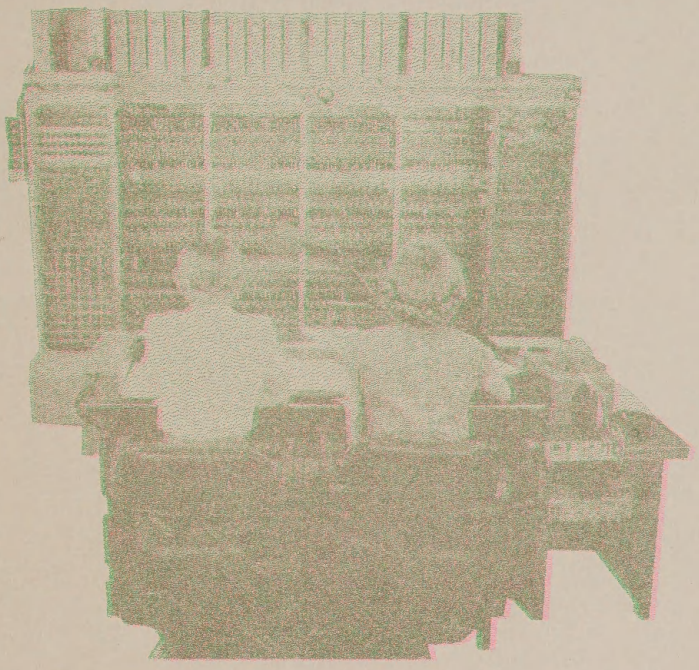
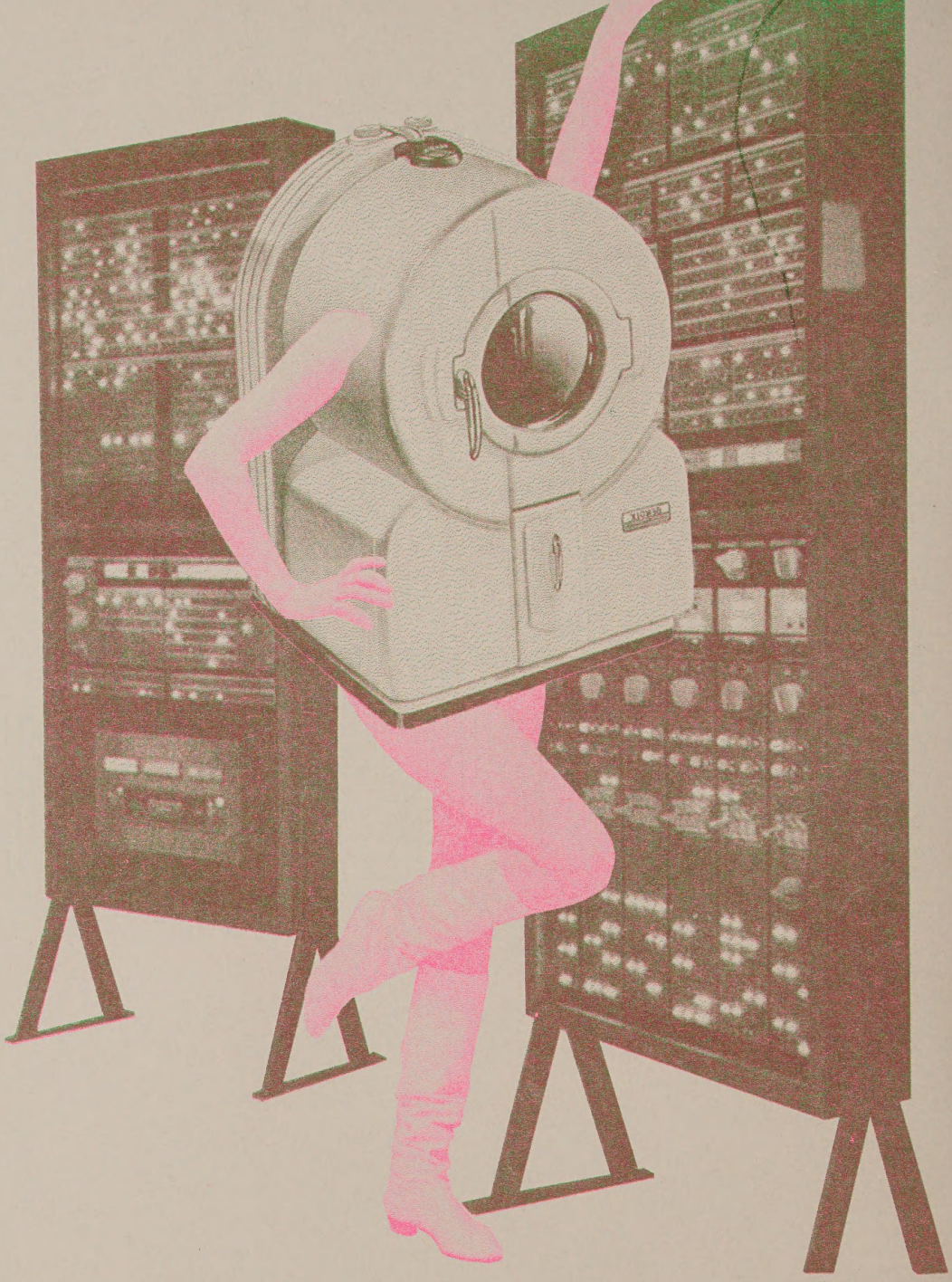


Gendered Machines
Vol 1: BODY



Just as an ideal femininity
is socially invented to serve male desires,
technological artifacts, tools and media,
have been built to fulfill the needs of the
historically male-controlled
landscape of invention.



Gendered Machines:
non-human, mechanical objects
that are associated with,
signifiers of, or assigned a gender.

Gendering Machines:
Systems of codifying identities,
deployed to limit the inherent potential
for unending possibility,
to control through categorization,
influenced by tropes in media.

Repeating media representations
act to link understandings of
object-hood and person-hood.

A typical polarization is found:
built for Service or for Domination
Worshiped or Feared for their power
0 + 1
A patriarchal oversimplification

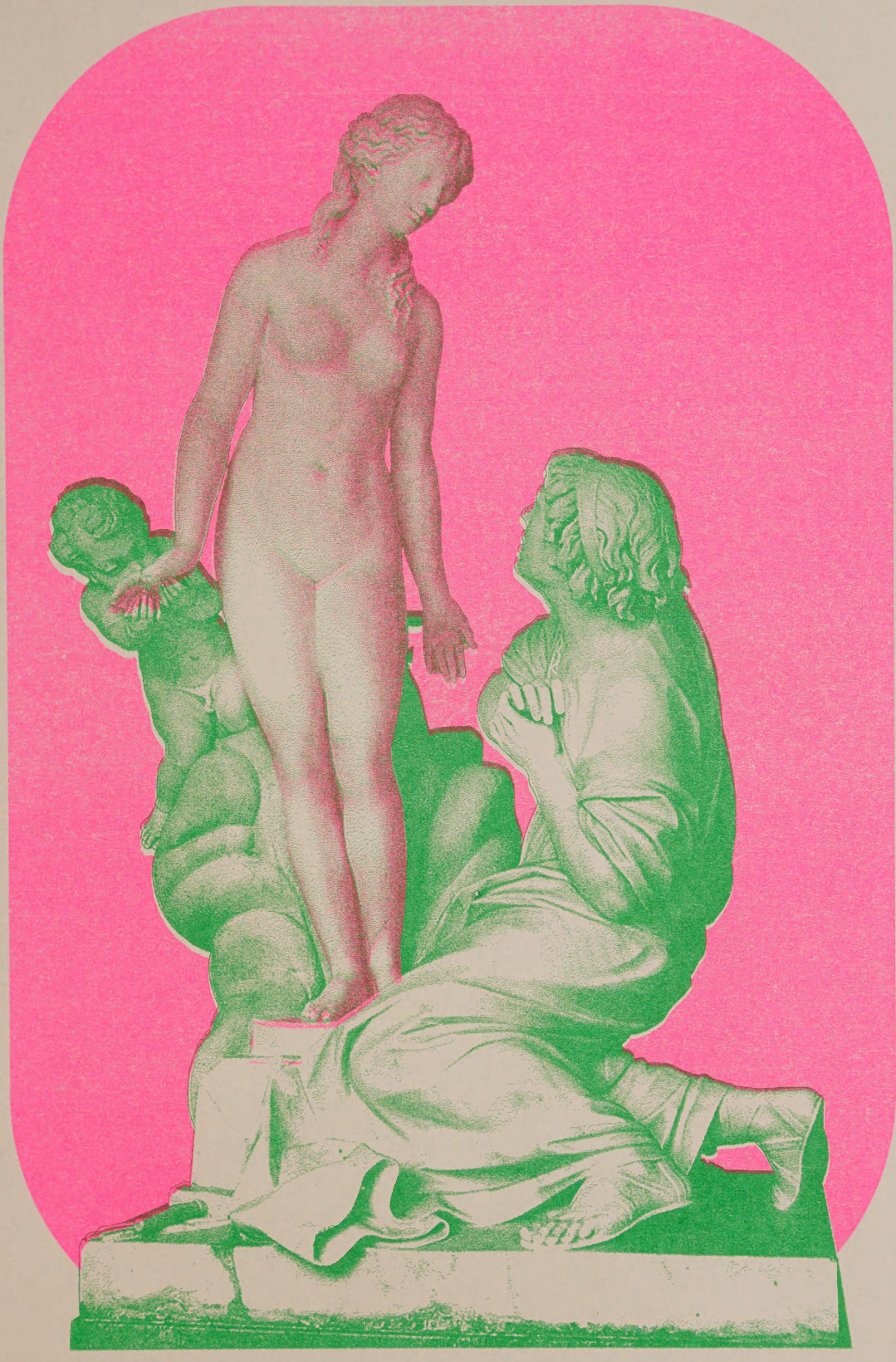
The Mad/Man Scientist
and the Machine-Woman

Allegorically expressed in any attempt
to artificially construct a life form,
the unending techno-extension of the self
is revealed as acutely gendered,

manifesting as
an endeavor to procreate without a mother,

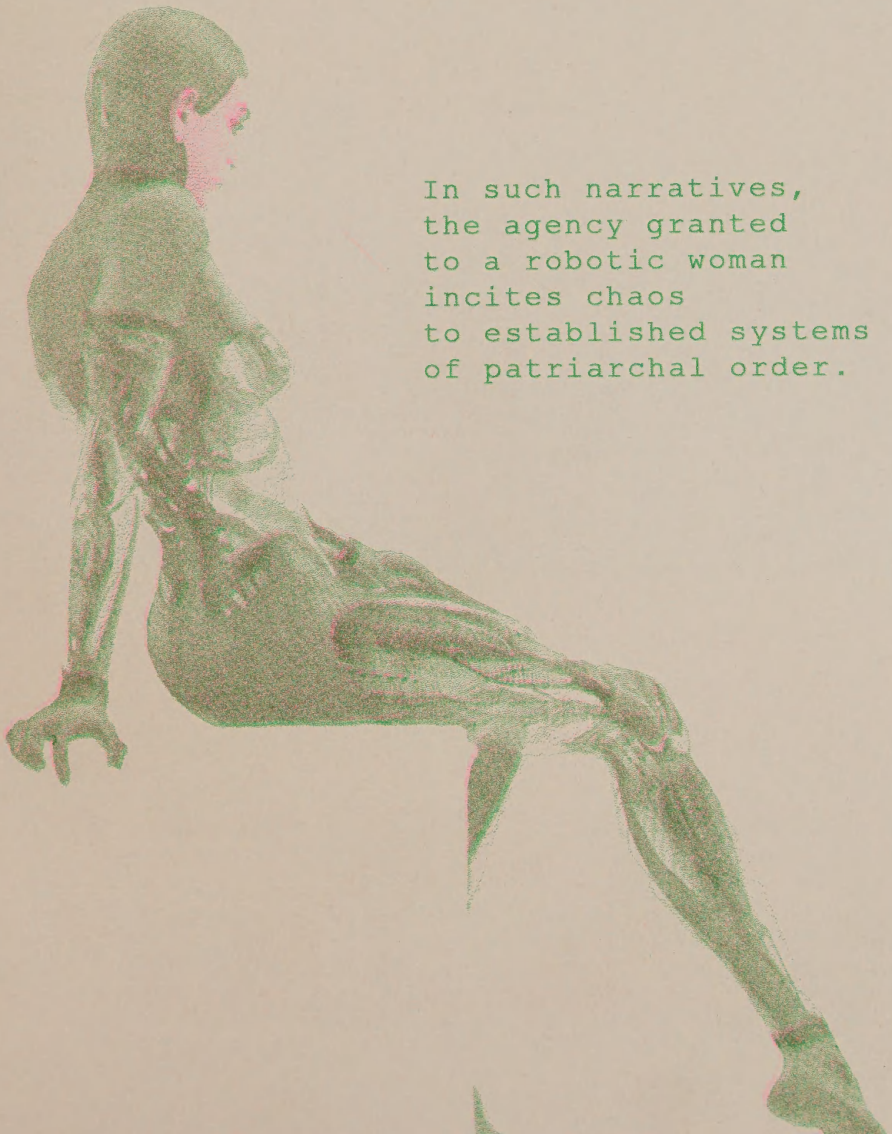
or in the long-fantasized, masculinist dream
to construct the perfect woman:
obedient, nurturing, and
built to an imagined perfection,

a mechanical bride.

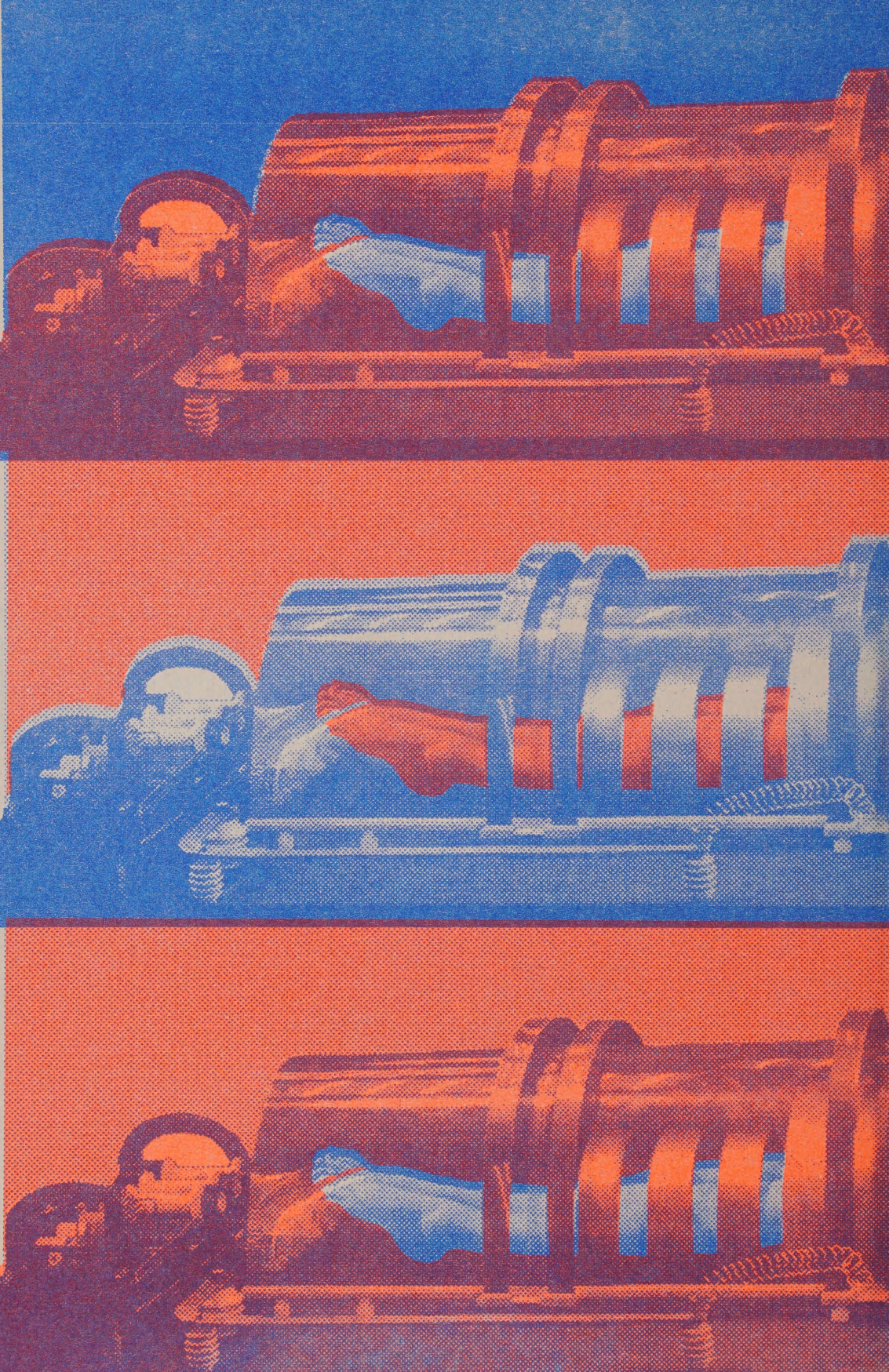


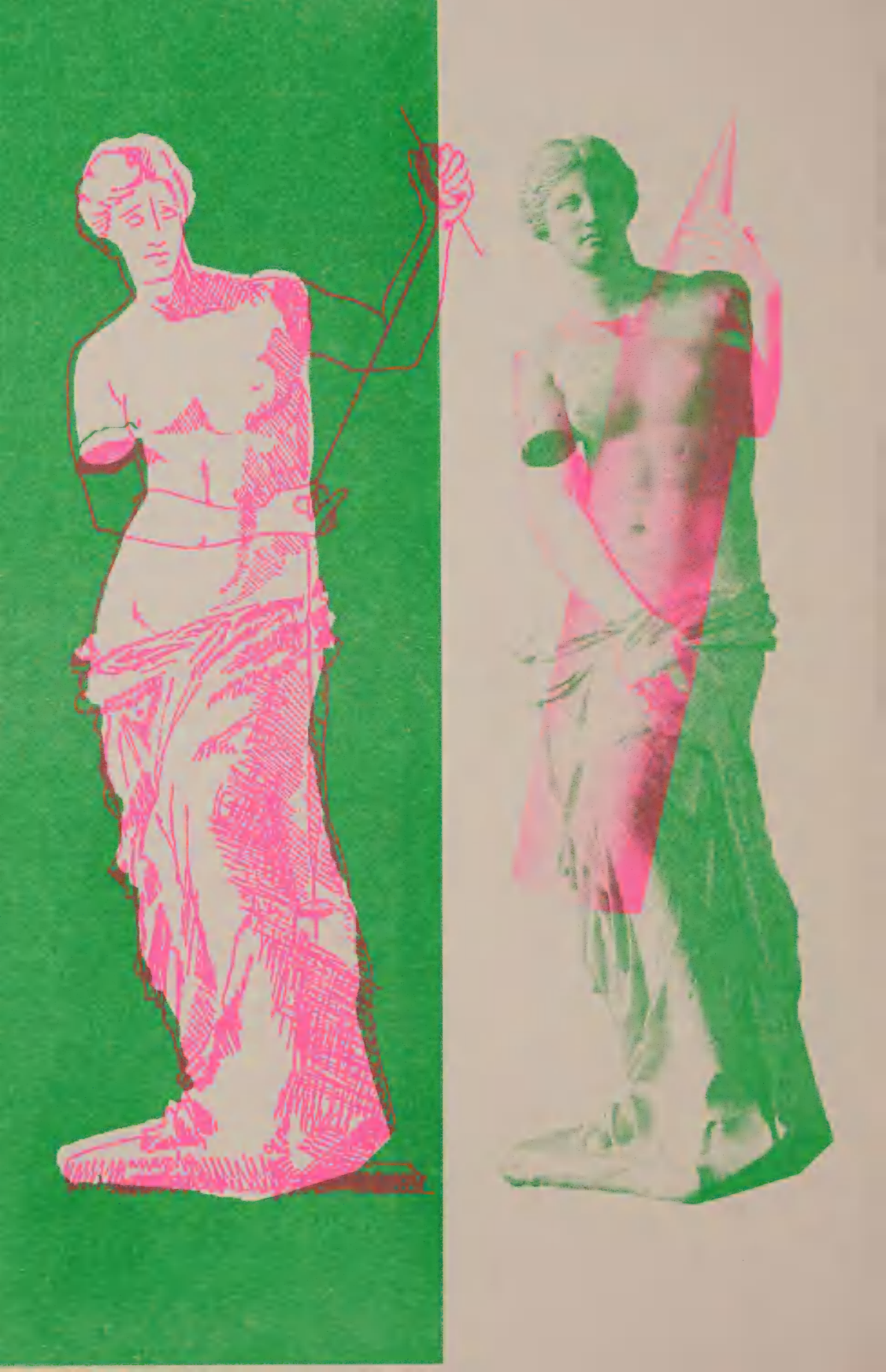
Wifebot is the
new Frankenstein:

An incarnation of
male fantasies of reproduction,
representing man's need
to impose control over the world,
mastering nature with science,
usurping God and womanhood
by at last claiming the power
to create life.



In such narratives,
the agency granted
to a robotic woman
incites chaos
to established systems
of patriarchal order.

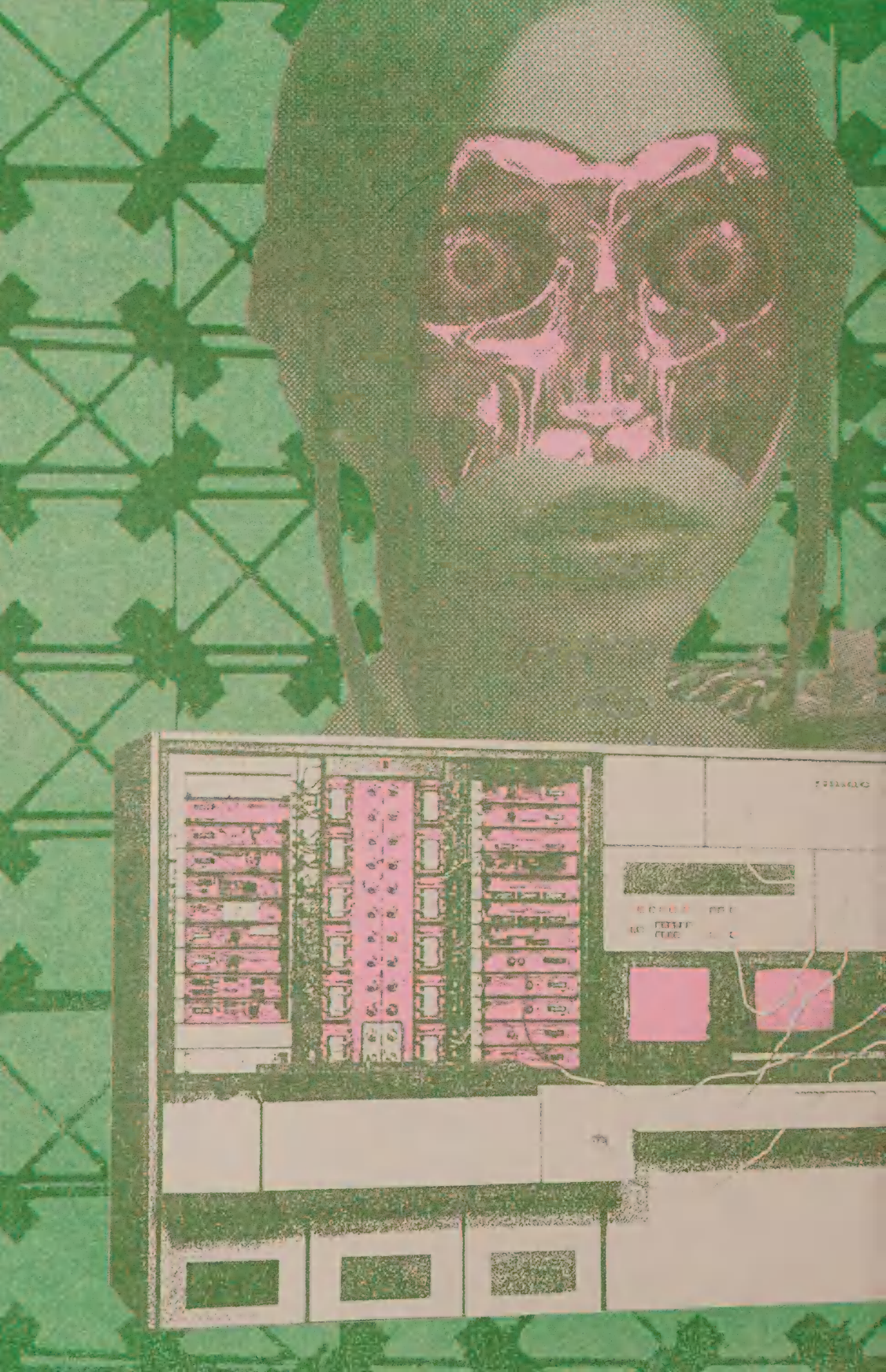




The act of constructing a life form
grants an opportunity
to create a way of being
that does not align
with existing realities.

An artificially intelligent being
or the figure of the Cyborg
can disrupt limiting frameworks,
as it possess the fundamental capacity
for a spectral range of possibility.

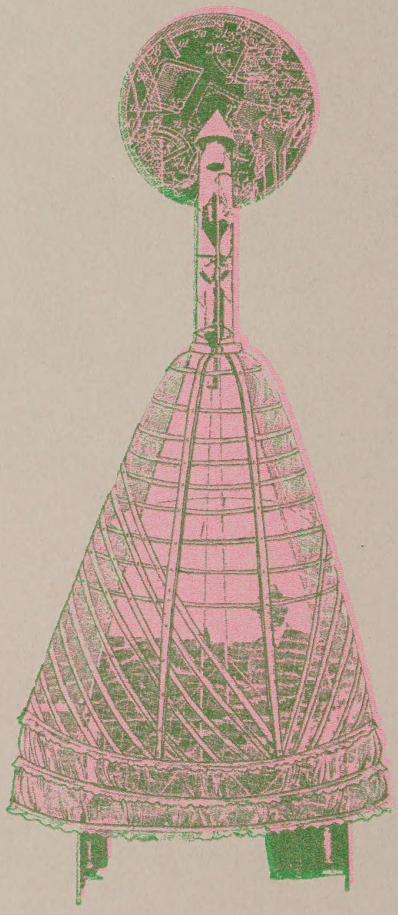
However, by nearly always retaining
a traditionally gendered power dynamic
between creator and created,
the wife-bot / robot bride fantasy
replicates a constructed idea of normalcy.



Robot brides that
free themselves
become a paradox:

objects with agency

By animating the inanimate,
the inventor attempting to impose order
inadvertently invites disorder.



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